

Reflections on 2nd Sunday after Christmas Year 26A.

Mass: Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2,8-12; Psalm: 147; Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18; John 1:1-18.

Once again, we hear the Prologue to John's Gospel. This is John setting the scene just as this time of Advent/Christmas sets the scene for us. It wakes us up and sets the scene and at its centre is the manger with a tiny child sleeping, as all babies do, in between the odd cry! We are being prepared for the slow unwinding of the plan or mystery of God's purpose. Once again, few new year resolutions seem to be made, just like last year. Sometimes it is hard to make plans. I suppose that they continue to seem pointless after a global pandemic and several vicious wars. And it is in precisely this situation that we become aware of just how much we need and seek a plan. The governments are constantly accused of being 'behind the curve' as Prime Ministers come and go. But isn't that what we all do? While of course hoping that somebody else does have a plan! The reality is that we all need each other and that most things seem to go wrong when we think that we have all the answers, hence the famous crack, 'if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans'. In reality, we need each other, in God. That is the plan that God is preparing, that we work together as a body, His Body. So often the Adam and Eve scenario plays itself out. We have a better idea than God and when it doesn't work out, we blame each other and like their sons, Cain and Abel, settle it by slaughtering one another. Working together is the plan, and it starts in a stable at Bethlehem in the midst of a messy nature, animals, and messy humans. God help us! And He does